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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195204 TOSEC 090011

FOL SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE INFO DIA NATO LISBON MOSCOW PARIS
MILAN NAPLES FLORENCE GENOA PALERMO TRIESTE TURIN AUG 15, 1975
FROM ROME

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11752

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT, UR, PO
SUBJECT: BERLINGUER-DEMARTINO ISSUE JOINT DECLARATION ON PORTUGAL

REF: ROME 11741

SUMMARY: IN A SURPRISE MOVE, COMMUNIST LEADER BERLINGUER AND SOCIALIST LEADER DEMARTINO ISSUED A JOINT DECLARATION ON PORTUGAL, AUGUST 14, CALLING FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS, AND BETWEEN THESE AND THE MOVEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE DOCUMENT IS NOT LIKELY TO AFFECT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, BUT SURE TO SHARPEN POLEMICS BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND ITS ERSTWHILE CENTER-LEFT ALLIES IN ITALY. NOTHING LIKE IT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE DAYS OF THE COMMON FRONT BETWEEN THE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS. END SUMMARY

1. COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) SECRETARY BERLINGUER AND SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARY DEMARTINO (PSI) ISSUED AUGUST 14 A JOINT DECLARATION CALLING FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS IN PORTUGAL, AND BETWEEN THESE PARTIES AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. OPERATIVE PASSAGES ARE:
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2. CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL "...WE CONSIDER IT
NECESSARY TO EXPRESS THE MOST INTENSE CONCERN OF ITALIAN COMMUNISTS
AND SOCIALISTS, CONVINCED THAT WE INTERPRET THE SENTIMENTS OF ALL
DEMOCRATS AND ANTIFASCISTS..."
"...WE CONSIDER IT RIGHT AND OBLIGATORY TO EXPRESS OUR REQUEST THAT
A POLITICAL AGREEMENT BE REACHED IN PORTUGAL AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC
PARTIES, IN THE FIRST PLACE BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS
AND BETWEEN THEM AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT; AN AGREEMENT BASED
ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE POPULAR REPRESENTATION OF THE PARTIES AS
IT EMERGED
FROM THE VOTE FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY..."

3. "...WE WISH THAT SUCH AN ACCORD SUCCEEDS IN GIVING BIRTH TO
A POLITICAL DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY...OF WHICH A GOVERNMENT OF
NATIONAL UNITY WOULD BE THE EXPRESSION...PUTTING AN END ABOVE ALL
TO THE VIOLENCE AGAINST THE OFFICES AND MILITANTS OF THE PORTUGUESE
COMMUNIST PARTY...AND RESUMING THE MARCH TOWARD THE CONSTRUCTION
OF A NEW SOCIETY PROFOUNDLY REFORMED IN ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
STRUCTURES, AND BASED ON POLITICAL PLURALISM AND NATIONAL
INDEPENDENCE."

4. THE OPERATIVE PASSAGES ARE PREFACED BY "EMPHASIZED" REFERENCE
TO THE "THE RECIPROCALLY AUTONOMOUS EVALUATIONS" OF THE PCI AND
PSI OF THE PORTUGUESE TRIBULATIONS. NO OTHER ALLUSION TO PCI-PSI
DIFFERENCES IS MADE.

5. COMMENT: THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS HASTILY COMPILED, AND
CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATE THAT IT CAME AS A SURPRISE TO MUCH OF THE
LEADERSHIP OF THE PCI AND PSI AS WELL AS EVERYONE ELSE. IT APPEARED
EVEN AS POLEMICS WERE HEATING UP BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES OVER UNITA'S
HARSH CRITICISM OF SOARES, AND OF THE SOCIALISTS, AMONG OTHERS,
FOR THEIR "SILENCE" OVER THE VIOLENCE BEING PERPETRATED AGAINST THE
PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS.
REPORTEDLY, BERLINGUER AND DEMARTINO DID NOT MEET; THE DOCUMENT WAS
COMPOSED BY SECRETARIATE MEMBER MANCA FOR THE PSI AND CERVETTI FOR
THE PCI, AND INITIALED BY EACH OF THE LEADERS IN THEIR SEPARATE
VACATION RETREATS.

6. NOTHING LIKE THE "DECLARATION" HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE DAYS OF THE
PCI-PSI COMMON FRONT. DESPITE HIS EXPLICIT RESERVATIONS AGAINST
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PAGE 03 STATE 195204 TOSEC 090011

RETURNING TO AN ALLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNISTS, DEMARTINO FACES A
NEW WAVE OF CHARGES THAT HE IS IN PRACTICE DOING SO, FIRST IN THE
FORMATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS, AND NOW ON FOREIGN POLICY.
IT REMAINS TO BE CLARIFIED WHY DEMARTINO AGREED TO AN INITIATIVE
WHICH, THOUGH UNLIKELY TO AFFECT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, COMPROMISES HIS
PARTY'S OFT REPEATED SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS, AND
IS ALREADY BEING INTERPRETED AS A VICTORY FOR BERLINGUER'S INTERNAL
AND FOREIGN POLICY. VOLPE UNQUOTE SISCO

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